



Rodney J. Stearns

November 2, 2016

Stearns, Rodney J. 5/3/1938 - 11/2/2016. Preceded in death by parents George (well known square dance caller) and Jean (both employees of Sears on Lake Street); brother Jerry (clinical psychologist at VA Hospital). Survived by sister-in-law Dorothy; nephew Jeff (Stefanie) and their daughter Kaitlynn; niece Sophie (J.C.) Pfluger and their children Luke and Ava. As his 97 1/2 yr old cousin and Godmother, Lillian Gilbertson, Rod asked me to write his obituary. He was a substitute teacher in the Mpls. schools after graduating from the U of M. He was very proud to share his May 3 birthday with cousin "Big Jim" Brenner, WWII Marine hero. They were golfers with TERRIFIC sense of humors. Although we only lived 5 blocks apart, we never knew each other until Rod was caring for his disabled and widowed mother and we ran into each other at the bank on 34th Ave. Rod was a loner until he had a few -- others told me he became a comic at Eddie Webster's where he was a regular for many years. He devoted his life to his mother until she died on 8/17/01. He would wheel her over and we'd all have a great visit. Rod kept coming over more and more. He loved my chocolate cake. He always insisted on a hug and I always said, "I love you Rod." Then I started to get, "I love you too." I told him what I would write and would hold his hand while he was dying. He was very pleased. That did not happen because he took 2 deep breaths and was gone. Rod, I love you. I'll love you forever, I'll never forget you. I know you are happier now than you've ever been. Memorial service Tues. Nov. 15 from 5-8 PM at Washburn-McReavy, Nokomis Park Chapel, 1838 E. Minnehaha

Parkway, 612-721-1651. Interment Wed., Nov. 16, 12:30 PM at Fort Snelling
National Cemetery, Assembly Area #6. Washburn-McReavy.com